

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR VERNON MEN'S SOFTBALL 2012

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I PURPOSE

The purpose of the Vernon Men's Softball Program is to provide wholesome Recreational activity for individuals who are interested in participating in an organized softball program.

II OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a recreational program that will enhance recreation opportunities for all individuals.
2. To promote good sportsmanship.
3. To promote clean competition.
4. To provide an opportunity for all individuals to actively participate in an organized softball program.
5. To provide an enjoyable recreation program, which is fun.

III ELIGIBILITY - All players must be registered with the Parks and Recreation Department at least 24 hours before become eligible to play.

1. Every player must be 18 years of age and older. Members of the high school baseball team are ineligible until the school season is over.
2. No residency rule – players are welcome from all towns.
3. If a team plays an illegal player (not on roster, serving a suspension, etc.) the game will be forfeited. The illegal player and coach will be suspended. **Amended 8-5-2005**

If there is a question regarding the identification of a player (s), any full time Park and Recreation employee, or umpire has the authority to seek verification at the game. Failure to produce identification will result in forfeiture of the game, expulsion of the player for the year and/or expulsion of the entire team.

ONCE A TEAM COMMITS, THE ENTRANCE FEE IS NON REFUNDABLE!!

The Parks and Recreation Department shall be the final judge of the eligibility of players, and there shall be no appeal of the decision.

IV PLAYING REGULATIONS

1. The Official USSSA Rules for the current year shall be in effect unless otherwise amended herein. The count will start at 1-1, but you will have an extra foul ball. *
2. There shall be a definite starting time established. Any team that is not ready to play within 10 minutes of the time established, **(for first game only)**, shall have the game forfeited to the offended team by the umpire. * Game time at Henry Park and Community Field is 6:20; 7:30; and 8:40 p.m.
3. At no time may the roster of any team carry more than 25 eligible players. Players may not be added after **May 17, 2013**.

4. A team must have nine men in order to start a game, the tenth man, if he arrives, would assume the 10th spot in the line up. Can finish with nine. Player leaves his spot unoccupied - batter is out.
 5. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated, and any player engaging in such behavior will be subject to suspension or expulsion from the league. Arguments after the game with umpires will not be allowed. If a report is received, a two game suspension will be given.
 6. Any act of aggression with intent to physically harm another person and any unsportsmanlike act or gesture that would be unbecoming to this program will result in suspension or expulsion.
 7. Profane or obscene language will not be permitted. Umpires are required to remove players from the game for this reason and may, at their discretion request suspension of players from the league.
 8. Any player who strikes, threatens to strike, or in any way lays hands on, or threatens the person of an umpire, shall be suspended from participation in softball and other recreation activities for a period to be determined by the Parks and Recreation Department. Such suspensions are decided by the Parks and Recreation staff.
 9. Disciplinary actions taken after an umpire report or Parks and Recreation staff reports, may be appealed to league director. A written appeal within 12 hours of the incident plus \$25 cash must be received. Fee is returned if appeal is upheld.
 10. A player may compete for **ONE** men's softball team, REVISED IN MARCH 2008 individuals will also be eligible for the co-ed league sponsored by the Recreation Department.
 11. A player may move to another team at any time prior to **May 17, 2013** with the permission of the League Director or League President.
 12. Each team must be uniformed by **the May 10, 2013**. All players in the starting line up must be wearing their team shirt or same color. Every time player with no team shirt comes up he will have two strikes.
 13. **Any player ejected must pay a \$25 fee for reinstatement.**
 14. If a player is ejected from a game twice during the season, this player will be suspended for the duration of the season and possibly into the following season.
 15. Fighting is an automatic suspension, depending on the seriousness will determine the length.
 16. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to make decisions in the best interest of the league.
- * Arguing balls and strikes by the batter or from the players on the bench will result in expulsion of players involved. Umpires will report automatically.

V. PROTESTS

1. All protests must be made in writing within 24 hours of the time of the game, exception when a decision needs to be made before next game, which is scheduled the next day. Protest shall be submitted to the Recreation Department and will be referred to the Protest Committee, which shall make the final decision. No protest will be considered involving the umpire's judgment. Where misinterpretation or ignorance of the rules may have caused the loss of the game, a protest will be considered. The umpire and manager of the opposing team must be notified immediately after the play in question if a protest on a play or decision is going to be made. Protest will not be considered unless this is done.
 - A. If a protest is upheld, the game will be replayed from the point of protest.
2. A fee of **\$75** must accompany each protest, such fee to be returned if the protest is upheld.

VI. LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. The team completing the schedule with the best won-loss record will be named League Champions. In case of a tie the head to head record will decide, if this doesn't decide the place,

then the record against the next highest seed would, if still tied, then the run differential against the top seeded team would. The team with the better record will have home team advantage for the 1st and 3rd games.

VII PLAYOFFS

1. Playoffs will be held at the end of the regular season. To be eligible for the playoffs, a player's name must be on the roster and he had to have appeared in **six games**. Line up cards must be completed at the beginning of the game and given to the umpire.
2. All playoff games will go as suspended games.
3. Mercy rule, same as the regular season.

VIII GENERAL RULES

1. The lights are not to be turned on early. The lights at Henry Park should not be turned on before the baseball game ends.
2. Batting donuts are prohibited.
3. Mandatory that all players wear shoes, no metal spikes. Automatic ejection
4. The batter gets one foul ball; the second foul ball is an out.
5. Pitching arc will be 3-10 feet, no faking. Pitcher cannot fake.
6. On the catcher's interference, the offended team has the option of taking the award, or the result of the play.
7. Allows for two Extra Hitters (EH). The EH can enter and play defense. A team must have 11 players to have an EH. to be determined before the game.
8. No warm up bats unless USSSA sanctioned.
9. All players must wear a shirt. Penalty - ejection from the game.
10. **Courtesy Runners Each team may designate one player for a courtesy runner. It must be done before the game or you lose the right. The last batted out only can be the actual courtesy runner. In the first inning the person designated for a runner reaches base and there is no outs the last batter in the order would be the runner. If another player gets injured during the game before the 5th inning that person can be run for and the original person would forfeit their runner.**
11. If you are thrown out of the game, you are automatically suspended for the next **two games**. You must leave the field and the park or the game will be forfeited. Ejected player has one minute to leave.
12. Appeal Play - Players can just ask the umpire for an appeal whether time is in or out except for safety base appeal. Eliminates a throw and a possibility of runners advancing.
13. Catchers have the option of wearing masks when they catch, the Parks and Recreation Department recommends that all catchers wear masks at all times while catching.
14. Each team will be Home Team approximately half of the time. The official league ball will be a Dudley, or comparable ball with low compression. Each team will be given 14 new balls at the beginning of the season.
15. We will have names of players looking to get on a team. Each team should have at least 15 players on their roster.
16. The drinking of alcoholic beverages of any sort, while participating as a member of a team on the field or on the bench, is grounds for forfeiture of the game. The umpire has this authority, as does representative of the Parks and Recreation Department. This also goes for after the games. Police and Park rangers will be patrolling the various fields. Violations will result in forfeiture, suspension or expulsion. Any police report received regarding an infraction will result in a one-year suspension as of that date. There is no appeal!
17. A team is allowed two forfeits. The third forfeit is an automatic dismissal of the team. All remaining games with this team are wins.

18. Team captains are required to call the Recreation office at 4:00 p.m. for a decision regarding if games are postponed. Have your players call you for any information.
19. No inning can start after 10:30 p.m., unless amended
20. Mercy rule 12 runs after 5 innings, 15 runs after 4 innings and 20 after 3 innings, this includes playoffs.
21. Reentry will be allowed.

IX GENERAL RULES - CONTINUED

22. Lightning - Umpire will wait 20 minutes after last flash, field cleared. Players should stay away from the light poles and trees. After 30-minute delay, game called - go to next scheduled game, (see attached).
24. Teams will be given a minimum of two days notice for all make up games.
25. The A\B League will have a limit of **six** homeruns the C Leagues **four** homeruns and the D Leagues **three** home runs.
26. Any team using players playing under an assumed name will forfeit out of the League.
BATS - Any bats that exceed 1.20 BTF are illegal – see attached list. This includes the 1999 list and the 2000 list. PENALTY - Player suspended minimum six (6) games, (subject to review) - Team subject to forfeiture of game.

***The pitching distance will remain at 53 feet, pitchers have the option to go back to 56 feet, for safety reasons.**